



COLLAPSIBLE TABLE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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This invention relates generally to a collapsible table having a table top formed by a pair of hinged half-sections, and more particularly the invention is concerned with such a reinforced collapsible table where at the collapsed position the sections are folded together, receiving between them the legs.

In connection with the present invention the terms *collapsible* and *foldable* are used interchangeably.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART

10 A dining table intended for use only on special occasions, such as for banquets or picnics, must be stored when not in use. Since a dining table occupies a relatively large space, the need to store the table presents a problem, particularly when there are many tables to be stored and the storage facilities are limited. A preferred form of banquet table is therefore one that is collapsible to form a
15 compact structure that occupies relatively little storage space (and optionally could be carried in a car) and that can be easily carried from one place to another.

One type of banquet tables comprises a non-collapsible, rigid and uniform table top, with only the legs being displaceable between an operative state for supporting the table top, and a storage state where the legs are folded against the
20 table top, typically against its bottom surface. Such a table is disclosed, for example, in US Patent 6,112,674.

A typical collapsible table includes a pair of interhinged half-sections to each of which is hinged a leg assembly. To collapse this table its leg assemblies are first folded in against the half-sections of the tabletop, and the half-
25 sections are then folded together to reduce the table to a compact structure requiring little storage space. To erect the table at its site of use, the half-sections are unfolded to form the tabletop and the leg assemblies are folded out to support this tabletop. A collapsible table in this format is disclosed in the US Patent 5,357,872 to Wilmore.